

HOUSE BILL 580
By Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, relative to use of the drug ritalin in schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A local board of education shall not permit an employee or person under contract with the board to recommend the use of psychotropic drugs to treat children enrolled in elementary or secondary schools. Psychotropic drugs are defined as prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns, such as attention deficit, impulsivity, anxiety, depression, and thought disorders. Psychotropic drugs include such medications as ritalin, adderal, dexadrine and other stimulant medication, and anti-depressants.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school's medical staff from recommending appropriate medical evaluation of a child with the student's parent's or legal guardian's consent.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.